



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1904 OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF NEWBIGGIN-BY-SEA.





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To the Members of the Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present you with my Annual Report for 1904, dealing with the Sanitary State of the District, the influences affecting or likely to affect the Public Health, the actions taken or requisite in consequence thereof, the improvements or deteriorations which have occurred during the year and the Vital Statistics.

For the **Physical Features, &c.**, of the district, I will refer you to my Annual Report for 1903.

House Accommodation.—The district is growing, but more slowly than during the previous two years, as only six new houses have been built during the year. These have been constructed in a satisfactory manner in accordance with your bye-laws.

Sewerage and Drainage.—Very little trouble has occurred during the year, only a few drains having become blocked.

Excrement Disposal.—The Scavenging has been done fairly satisfactorily. I have only had cause for complaint on two occasions. At the same time I consider that the Ashpits, &c., should be more frequently attended to.

Water Supply.—This is still dependent on the three chief public wells, a few private wells, and upon rain water.

There was, undoubtedly a great scarcity of water during the Autumn, the two chief wells being pumped dry daily, and a few more weeks of dry weather would have caused a most serious state of affairs.

An abundant supply of pure water is still the most urgent requirement of your district, and any marked improvement in sanitation is practically impossible until this is obtained.

The **Slaughter Houses** have been kept in as good a condition as could be expected.

The **Cowsheds** have also been kept clean. That at Springfield Terrace is no longer used; another at Burnside is no longer used for milch cows; a new cowbyre has been constructed at the East end, according to modern sanitary requirements, and is the best and most satisfactory in the district.

A stable at Watervale House has been converted into a byre and used as such. Its size, ventilation, &c., are satisfactory, but in my opinion, it is not at all a suitable position for such a purpose. The purity of the milk supply of any district is of such prime importance, especially in its relation to infant feeding, that too much care cannot be exercised in supervising the milk trade. Regulations under the Local Government Board Dairies and Cowsheds Order, and the observance of the compulsory portions of that Order, are needed for this district.

Factories and Workshops Acts, 1901.—I have received certain printed forms from the Home Office, which I have filled up and append one to this Report.

There is nothing to report as to the Factory of the Newbiggin Co-operative Society.

The **Bakehouses** I have found clean and efficiently limewashed.

One bakehouse, which I mentioned in my Report for 1903, as being inefficiently ventilated has remained in the same condition during 1904.

The Inspection of the Bakehouses and other Workshops has been made monthly during my ordinary inspection of the district.

I know of no Register of Workshops, or list of outworkers (if any), but these should be kept by you under the above Act.

Nuisances.—The Pond at the Elders and Watervale House, I reported to you as having become a nuisance and it is now being filled up.

At West House and Cottage there have been repeated and recurring nuisances owing to the ashpits and privies not being regularly emptied. This nuisance still existed at the end of the year and should be abated.

Methods of dealing with Infectious Diseases.—Notification, isolation when practicable, and disinfection, with exclusion from school of children from infected houses are the measures in vogue in checking these diseases.

A small hand spray for more efficient disinfecting of walls of rooms, &c. would be very useful to your Inspector.

Sanitary Inspections.—The Inspector of Nuisances and myself have made monthly inspections of the district, and have from month to month reported to you as to the conditions existing at those times, the chief effect of these inspections is that the scavenging is done as a rule efficiently at those times.

The Improvements during 1904, are as follows :—

Six houses built on Bower Rigg Estate.

New stables and coach houses built in Woodhorn Lanc for the Old Ship Hotel.

Mineral water works erected at West End.

Motor garage put up at Cowpen House.

Henderson's cowbyre constructed (as before mentioned).

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Infectious Diseases.—42 cases were notified during the year and comprised the following :—

Enteric Fever—one case, origin uncertain.

Puerperal Fever—one case.

Erysipelas—three cases.

Scarlet Fever.—37 cases. This disease was no doubt imported into the district from the neighbouring colliery districts. In March I recommended temporary closure and disinfection of the schools, but notwithstanding all attempts to check the disease, it continued to crop up throughout the year ; I am convinced that Scarlet Fever will continue to occur whenever it is prevalent in the surrounding thickly populated districts.

A few cases of Measles occurred.

No Smallpox has occurred during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population to the middle of 1904, is 2,450.

There have been 86 births and 52 deaths.

The Birth rate is 35·1 per 1,000.

The Death rate is 21·2 per 1,000.

The Birth rate shows a decrease of 1·5.

The Death rate shows an increase of 7·5, and is the highest since 1897, but if accidental deaths are excluded the rate would be 18·3, which is only 0·4 above the average for the last ten years.

The Zymotic death rate is 1·22.

The Infant Mortality is 127·9, a decrease of 42·5.

The Phthisis rate is 1·63.

The Deaths occurred at the following ages :—

Under 1 year	11
1 year and under 5 years	6
5 " "	15	..	6
15 " "	25	..	1
25 " "	65	..	20
65 and upwards	8

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Measles, 1 ; Scarlet Fever, 2 ; Phthisis, 4 ; other Tubercular diseases, 5 ; Malignant disease, 3 ; Bronchitis, 2 ; Pneumonia, 1 ; other Respiratory diseases, 1 ; Alcoholism, 1 ; Premature Births, 2 ; Heart diseases, 3 ; Accidents, 7 ; all other causes, 20.

The public health and the sanitary state at the close of the year was with the exceptions above-mentioned satisfactory.

I am, Gentlemen,

Faithfully yours,

V. BURROW, M.D., F.I.S.M.O.H.

February, 1905,

Cowpen House,

Newbiggin-by-Sea.

VITAL STATISTICS DURING 1904 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in Dist.			
				Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
		No.	Rate.	No.	Rate per 1000 Births Registered.	No.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1894	1690	71	42	14	197.1	40	23.6
1895	1731	74	42.7	14	189	35	20.2
1896	1775	88	49.5	11	125	26	14.6
1897	1822	75	41.1	14	185.3	41	22.5
1898	1872	69	36.8	13	188.4	35	18.6
1899	1925	77	40	12	155.8	33	17.1
1900	1981	75	37.8	7	93.3	30	15.1
1901	2032	84	41.3	21	250	39	19.1
1902	2250	79	35.1	7	88.6	34	15.1
1903	2400	88	36.6	15	170.5	33	13.7
Averages for years 1894 to 1903	1947	78	40.2	12.9	164.3	34.6	17.9
1904	2450*	86	35.1	11	127.9	52	21.2

NOTE.—Rates in Columns 4 and 8 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

* In addition—about 400 or 500 visitors during the summer months.

